

REMARKS

In his latest office action, the Examiner asserted that two patentably distinct species of the invention existed in the application, stating that the determined parameters were not necessarily limited the method of Claim 1. Examiner required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution and to identify the claims that encompass the invention.

In response, the Applicants elect Group 1, Claims 1-18, **with traverse** because the language of the claims necessarily limits the dependent claims to the method of Claim 1. However, in the interest of clarity, Applicants submit an amended claim set herewith, cancelling Claim 19, adding new Claim 24, and amending Claim 20 to depend from Claim 24. New Claim 24 explicitly defines the thermal processing cycles and the cumulative bandgap shifts in the same terminology as Claim 1 and inserts the step of determining whether the process is symmetric or asymmetric before the first patterning step described in Claim 1. Applicants believe that the additional step of dependent Claim 24 is now clearly limited to the process of Claim 1.

Attorney Docket No. 35832.000127

Applicants await a first action on the merits of all the claims. No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 503982 of Momkus McCluskey, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

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